

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the 50th anniversary of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Since 1965, these landmark programs have provided affordable health insurance coverage and access to care for our Nation's seniors and most vulnerable populations. Few programs have improved the lives of Americans as significantly as Medicaid and Medicare.

Fifty years ago, almost half of elderly Americans lacked health insurance. Today, Medicare provides lifesaving insurance to nearly 100 percent of adults over 65.

Medicaid continues to be a lifeline for millions of children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, seniors, and low-income families. Over 70 million Americans currently rely on Medicaid for affordable health insurance. Medicaid covers more than one in three children, pays for nearly half of all births, and accounts for more than 40 percent of all long-term care.

On the anniversary of this historic law, we celebrate the successes of Medicaid and Medicare. We must renew our commitment to further strengthening them so they remain available in perpetuity for generations to come.

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RECOGNIZING JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES OF SOUTH FLORIDA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jewish Community Services of South Florida and its upcoming annual Milk & Honey event, which will take place on August 30 and starts at the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.

This tremendous, faith-based, non-profit organization has worked to improve the lives of South Florida residents since 1920. It is one of our State's largest and most reliable social service organizations.

Among the many important services that the JCS of South Florida provides are those focused on supporting our elderly. This year's Milk & Honey event will, again, bring together hundreds of volunteers to assemble food baskets and hurricane preparedness kits for vulnerable South Florida seniors.

My community liaison, Harriet Carter, and I have participated in many events of the JCS of South Florida, and I thank all the volunteers who will make this year's Milk & Honey event a smashing success.

SUPPORTING DRAFT LEGISLATION CONCERNING THE VA BUDGET AND CHOICE FUNDING

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I participated in laying a wreath at the Arlington Cemetery to honor our fallen veterans and military members.

Today, we need to do more than a ceremony. We need to honor our veterans now by passing the VA budget legislation.

I support this draft legislation because it addresses the \$3 billion shortfall for fiscal year 2015 that veterans had, and it keeps hospital and medical facilities open for our veterans through the end of the fiscal year.

This legislation allows the VA to use the dollars for health care provided to veterans and family members under the program provided by the non-VA provision. This bill allows VA to access this money. In addition, \$500 million may be used for pharmaceutical expenses related to the treatment of hepatitis C at the VA.

This is a cure many of the veterans need, especially those who served in Vietnam; and I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation before we go home.

As the Army says, this is one team, one fight; and we need to look out for the VA and veterans.

SUPPORT MONTANA JOBS

(Mr. ZINKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Montana jobs and to rally against this administration's war on American coal.

In Montana, coal means good-paying jobs. Those are blue collar, union jobs. Coal means economic opportunity. Coal means affordable utilities for families and manufacturers, and coal means Montana.

In the words of Crow Chairman Old Coyote:

For the Crow people, there are no jobs that compare to the coal job. The wages and benefits exceed anything else that is available. A war on coal is a war on the Crow people.

Montana could lead the Nation in coal production; but, unfortunately, President Obama and his EPA are waging a more aggressive war on coal than they are against ISIS.

Montana alone, and our coal, produces \$1.7 billion in royalty payments; and that pays for schools, bridges, and our infrastructure.

The EPA's Clean Power Plan will kill Montana jobs. Those are real jobs, like in the Rosebud mine in Colstrip, and across our State.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support Montana and support our Nation's energy independence through coal.

RENEW VOTING RIGHTS ACT

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, nearly 50 years after the Voting Rights Act was

signed into law, we still see efforts to weaken voter protections and suppress votes.

Discriminatory voting laws, such as strict photo ID requirements and reduced early voting, disproportionately impact minority voters in the name of preventing widespread voter fraud, a problem that simply does not exist.

Clearly, since the Supreme Court's decision 2 years ago to erode some of the VRA's most critical protections, including preclearance requirements that protect against disenfranchising laws, the Voting Rights Act is still needed more now than ever before; yet Republicans have refused to allow a renewed and strengthened Voting Rights Act to come to the floor.

This should concern everyone who believes the right to vote is one of the most fundamental to our democracy. It is time we renew and strengthen the Voting Rights Act.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because it is past time we call human trafficking what it really is: modern-day slavery.

Every year, up to 300,000 children are at risk of being sex-trafficked here in our country. On average, these children are first sold into sex slavery before their 13th birthday. As a father, I can't fathom anything more disgusting.

Earlier this year, I supported legislation that we successfully passed aimed at stopping sex trafficking, but the fight is far from over. Human trafficking generates \$9.5 billion worldwide each and every year, and the criminals that profit off of sex trafficking aren't going to give in that easily.

For example, right now in my district, backpage.com, a disgusting Web site that facilitates online sex trafficking, is suing Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart because he stood up to the evil and corrupt people who profit off of the exploitation of minors.

It is our collective obligation to do everything that we can to put a definitive end to this atrocity. I commend Sheriff Dart for standing up for what is right, and I pledge to work with my colleagues here in this House, on both sides of the aisle, to stop this abhorrent crime.

A SURVIVOR'S STORY

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Amanda Jones was kidnapped in Dallas, Texas. She was 15 years of age, and then she was sold for sex at the hands of human traffickers.

Children right here in the United States are bought and sold for sexual